

Scott M. Matheson, Governor Temple A. Reynolds, Executive Director Cleon B. Feight, Division Director

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August 16, 1982

MEMORANDUM

TO:

Cy Young

FROM:

Mary Boucek

DATE:

August 6, 1982

RE: Anaconda Minerals Company Wild Horse Ridge Exploration

CEP/015/007

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is recommending that the exploration road not be put in as planned, especially if there are any viable alternatives (see attached). Since this is fee land, the USFWS is acting in an advisory capacity and does not have the legal authority to block road construction. UMC 815.15 (a) states: "Habitats of unique value for fish, wildlife and other related environmental values [and areas identified in 724.21 (b) (remanded)] shall not be disturbed during coal exploration. On this basis and upon the recommendation of the USFWS, I recommend that alternatives to the exploration road be delved into in depth and that the road, as designed, not be approved.

Other items which should be addressed in the application are:

- 1. Method for topsoil protection and stabilization
- A description of the vegetation which will be affected 2.
- The anticipated total area of disturbance
- A statement of the period of intended exploration

MB/tck